31st July 1962]

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed talks would be held in August–September next.

Hindi

*148 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received recently from the students of the high schools in the City of Madras about the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir; but some representations were received in 1961.

(b) No action was considered necessary on the representation.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the present position of Hindi with regard to the S.S.L.C. Examination ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is the examination. But there is no obligation on the part of the students to secure the minimum marks for eligibility to College course.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will this condition be allowed to continue for some more years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I cannot say anything about the future. I can only explain what the present position is.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, in view of the fact that high school students, specially those from the mufassal find it difficult to learn Hindi and get pass marks in it, will the Government see that this is continued for some more years to come?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the main question put by the hon. Member is about the representation made by certain students in favour of introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject.

Newspapers

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the hon. Member Dr. A. Sreenivasan is not in his seat, the question and the answer thereto will be printed in the official report of the proceedings.

*149 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a law protecting newspapers from prosecution in reporting the proceedings of the Legislature; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revised scales of pay

150 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the minimum benefit of Rs. 5 in total emoluments under the revised scales of pay is applicable to watchmen, sweepers and gardeners in aided secondary schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The matter is under consideration.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the peons in permanent employment in the aided schools eligible for this increase?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.

Local board secondary schools

* 151 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total number of local board secondary schools in the State with twenty-five sections and more?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, the question is about the number of schools. May I take it that there are no schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry, Sir, the number is 50.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware of the fact, Sir, that in spite of the large strength in the schools, the headmasters of these institutions are not paid on a par with the headmasters of aided institutions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not a question of payment of headmasters on a par with some other institution. The question of revision of scales of pay for the various categories of Government servants including headmasters was gone into by the Pay Commission and the pay scales have been fixed according to the recommendations of the Commission.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that there is still the disparity and do the Government justify that disparity?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It cannot be taken as a disparity. Government servants have certain other privileges. Mere scale of pay cannot be compared with what is prevailing in other spheres.